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MONTANA NEWSLETTER

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Volume 6 January 4, 1971 No. 1

LSCA Extension: S. 3318, the House-amended version of the Library Services and Construction amendments of 1970, passed the House under suspension of the rules on December 7, 1970, and was finally approved by the Senate on December 15 and cleared for the President's signature. President Nixon signed the bill December 31.

Under the new Title I, programs formerly authorized under Title IV A and B (State Institutional Library Services and Library Services to the Physically Handicapped) will be consolidated into Title I. In addition, three new programs have been authorized under this title:

> Special library service programs for the disadvantaged, in both urban and rural areas;
>
> Strengthening metropolitan public libraries which serve as national or regional resource centers; and
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> Strengthening the capacity of State Library administrative agencies for meeting the needs of all the people of the States.

Title II of the extended Library Services and Construction Act continues the public library construction program; Title III continues the interlibrary cooperation program. For all three titles, the authorization for appropriation increases at about 5% per year. The act will be effective after June 30, 1971, and through June 30, 1976.

Annual Reports for 1969 and 1970 were published in one book by the State Library Commission and distributed at the end of December. Due to limitations on quantity it has not been possible to mail the report to many of the individuals and organizations who have received the report in previous years. Copies have been distributed, however, to all libraries in Montana, to state libraries in other states, and to a limited group of individuals, including those who receive statutory distribution of state publications.

Libraries wanting more materials on alcohol and drug problems may want to contact the Alcohol and Drug Dependence Commission for information on publications available from a variety of sources. Robert L. Solomon is Director of the Commission; the office is at 510 Logan, in Helena. Telephone number is 449-3176.

Public Library Federation Coordinators met at the State Library on December 28 to discuss problems of funding adequate public library service, the need for state aid to equalize public library support, and some possible means of using state aid to achieve the goals in Montana Public Library Standards. At the same meeting the Coordinators and State Library staff concluded that the Federations could develop within the general plan of the report "Proposed Multi-County Districts for the State of Montana", prepared by the Department of Planning and Economic Development, in November 1970.

Public Librarians, trustees, and others interested in library service participated in a meeting of the Big Sky Federation of Libraries in Dillon on December 11. In addition to general reports on library service in the area, the group discussed use of book selection tools.

The Montana Association of School Librarians, a division of the Montana Library Association, recognizes annually a school administrator who merits recommendation for outstanding support and contribution to the school library program of his district. This award is presented at the MLA annual meeting in May. Librarians are asked to submit recommendations for this award not later than February 15, 1971. Application forms and information concerning this award may be obtained from: Miss Eleanor Ivankovich, Awards Chairman, MASL, Anaconda Senior High School Library, Fifth and Main, Anaconda, Montana 59711.

The Commission on Aging has announced that a series of community conferences on aging will be held, probably in April, in a number of cities in Montana. Librarians should watch for information on these community conferences, and prepare to participate.

The State Library is one of twenty-four state agencies participating in the Montana Council on Human Resources. The Council was established by Governor Anderson in 1969 as a means to more effectively serve the needs of Montana's people through avoiding duplication of effort and programs; to develop a means whereby all interested groups, organizations and individuals could participate in solving problems on all levels.

Mrs. Molly Herrin has joined the staff of the State Library as Library Assistant in General Library Services.

Montaniana: Montana's Own, by Dave Crowell. Published by the author, in Missoula. $5.00. Brief biographic sketches, together with photographs, of 48 contemporary Montana artists. The Long Journey, by Barbara Corcoran. Atheneum. $4.95. A young girl rides alone across Montana to get help for her grandfather who is going blind.

David R. Hoffman
Acting State Librarian

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